Given

by Kizu Natsuki

Chapter 04

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Joint project between BangAQUA & Dangerous Pleasure.
» A manga from Dear Plus Comics.
» JAN/ISBN: 9784403664496

www.bangaqua.com // www.dpscanlations.deathsvertigo.com

given

Natsuki Kidu
presents

flush

Dapo Dapo

I'M NOT LONELY.

ALTHOUGH I CAN NEVER MEET YOU AGAIN,

...HAVEN'T FOUND THE WORDS TO SAY IT YET,

ALTHOUGH I STILL...

...YOU TREASURED.

...THIS THING...

...HOLDING ONTO...

I'LL KEEP...

IT'S A STORY ABOUT A CERTAIN MORNING OF A CERTAIN WINTER.

code.4

given

CAN YOU GET DOWN?

VROOM

WAAHH...

Your hair's curling up.

Huh?

YEAH.

THANKS.

UH... WHA...

THEN... SEE YOU LATER!

YOP

MAKE SURE YOU GO TO CLASS!

SEE YOU LA-TER?!

HARUKI!

OH.

HEY, HARUKI! WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DO-ING?

...

GO F*** YOURSELF! YOU AIR-HEADED BASTARD!

DID YOU SEE THE MESSAGE HENOYAMA SENT?

I did.

tired

I WAS THINKING OF WATCHING HIM A LITTLE MORE WHEN HE GETS BETTER WITH GUITAR, BUT...

YEAH.

I THOUGHT SO, TOO. THAT'S WHY I WENT AND...

HE SAID HE WANTS TO LET MAFUYU JOIN OUR BAND.

I KNEW IT'D TURN OUT LIKE THIS SOONER OR LATER. IT HAPPENED FASTER THAN I EXPECTED, THOUGH.

WHY IS HE USING HONORIFICS?

"YOU'LL GET IT WHEN YOU LISTEN TO HIM."

THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.

...ASKED HIM HIS REASON.

YOU ALREADY KNOW UECCHI'S INTERESTED IN THAT KID AND YOU STILL ASKED HIM. YOU JUST WANT TO BULLY HIM, DON'T YOU?

I JUST ...

WHAT'S WRONG, UENOYAMA? YOU'VE BEEN STRANGE LATELY, YOU KNOW?

IT'S THAT GUY WHO'S THE WEIRD ONE HERE...

WHAT...

THE HELL WAS THAT? DAMN IT.

WHACK

WHAT DOES THAT REALLY MEAN?

THAT ASSHOLE!

WANT TO JOIN MY BAND?

I ASKED HIM IF HE WANTED TO JOIN MY BAND.

AH, THAT GUY FROM THE CLASS NEXT DOOR...

HE'S HERE, ISN'T HE? SATOU MAFUYU.

AND YET...

HUH?

clench

I'LL PASS ON THAT...

...NN.

...

I DON'T GET IT.

SINKING.

HUUH? WHY?

...

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.

chirp

chirp

YEAH! THAT'S RIGHT!

...

AH.

THAT MEANS YOU DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO TURN YOU DOWN, RIGHT?

I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D TURN DOWN MY OFFER!

AH.

Hey there, boys!

BUT...

.. SUCH A GOOD VOICE LIKE THAT

THERE'S NO WAY I'M GONNA GIVE UP LIKE THIS!

...SHIT.

tremble

HA

HA

HA

HA!

HOLY SHIT.

turn

...

HE'S MAD, RIGHT?

THAT'S ENOUGH.

...

HEH. SORRY.

HOLY SHIT... HEH. THAT'S... TOO FUNNY.

COUGH COUGH

HEY ...

I SAID CUT IT OUT.

HUH... HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?

WHAT?

THAT'S BECAUSE ..

HE HAS AN INTERVIEW FOR A PART-TIME JOB TODAY.

BUT HEY, THAT GUY DIDN'T COME?

He's avoiding me?

AH...

NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

DON'T TELL ME YOU DON'T KNOW HIS EMAIL ADDRESS, LECCHI?

HOLD UP.

...HE TEXTED ME...

I DON'T KNOW, EITHER.

...

Kaji-Follow boy

!

!

I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO TAKE IT THAT SERIOUSLY.

I MEAN, WE TOLD HIM TO FIND A PART-TIME JOB IF HE WANTS TO PLAY MUSIC, DIDN'T WE?

IT'S FOR THE SAKE OF MUSIC, YOU KNOW?

...SO?

...

HECCHI, DID YOU ASK HIM "WHY" PROPERLY?

I TOLD YOU,

MAFUYU'S JUST DOING WHAT WE TOLD HIM.

I'M ASKING YOU IF YOU ASKED HIM ABOUT HIS REASON WHEN HE REFUSED YOUR OFFER.

WHAT?

PUTTING ASIDE THAT CONTACT INFO THING,

YOU SHOULD COMMUNICATE WITH HIM BETTER.

MUSIC IS ALL ABOUT COMMUNI-CATION, RIGHT?

YOU SEE, I WORRY ABOUT THAT SOMETIMES.

...HM. MAYBE I SAID TOO MUCH...

DON'T YOU THINK SO?

Hmph.

GRAB

WAH.

ruffle

ruffle

messy

?!

WHAT?!

YOU'RE DEFINITELY NOT TWO YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME...

...

C'mon, we're going home. Let's go to the station.

'CAUSE YOU'RE LIKE THE OLDER BROTHER OF EVERYONE HERE.

BE STRICT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

THEN PLEASE START FROM NEXT WEEK.

Phew

!

UENOYA-MA!

unsteadily

Pomeranian

run run

thump

thump thump

UM ...

HOW DID IT GO?

AH...

stare

...I HEARD YOU WENT TO AN INTERVIEW?

?

YEAH.

HE SAID I COULD WORK FROM NEXT WEEK

I-I SEE.

SO HE HAS AT LEAST SOME ABILITY TO SOCIALIZE WITH OTHERS, HUH?

AH...

UM..

COMMU-NICATION...

COM-MU...

WH...

MAFUYU?

ああ もう

MAFUYU,

HUH?

WHAT...

WHOOSH

...ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I HAVEN'T HEARD... ANYTHING FROM YOU FOR SO LONG...

HOLD ON. WHAT'S THAT? ON..

YOUR BACK.

!

THAT'S

...YOSHIDA'S GUITAR, ISN'T IT?

HUH?

YOU KNOW HIM?

ARE YOU

...PLAYING MUSIC NOW?

CAFE

IT'S ALWAYS
L KE TH S. I
DON'T KNOW
HOW I SHOL..D
REACT

I CAN'T DO THINGS OTHERS CAN DO WELL.

THINGS LIKE

. CRYING OR LAUGHING LIKE EVERYONE ELSE

HEY!

MAFUYU!

I CAN NEVER DO IT.

DO YOU HEAR ME? HEY!

grab

Aarrr

Ah!
HEY, WHAT'S-
Pull
.MAFUYU?

shake
shake

ARE

shake

ARE YOU CRYING?

ba-dump

WHAT'S

THAT FACE

ARE YOU

ALL RIGHT?

WHAT WAS WITH THAT GUY EARLIER?

AND WHO'S YOSHIDA?

IS IT SOMETHING...

...YOU CAN'T TELL ME ABOUT?

DOES IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH...

...YOU NOT WANTING TO JOIN THE BAND?

STUNNED

BEING IN A BAND, YOU HAVE TO EXPRESS THINGS IN FRONT OF PEOPLE, RIGHT?

clench

PEO-PLE..

...OFTEN TELL ME THAT I LOOK L KE I DON'T CARE ABOLIT ANY-THING...

EVEN I SOMETIMES THINK SO.

...

THEN... WHY?

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT.

shake shake

IT'S...

...PROBABLY BECAUSE I'M NOT AS GOOD AS OTHERS...

...WHEN IT COMES TO EXPRESSING MYSELF.

THAT'S WHY..

MY BLOOD...

...IS BOILING.

I MEAN...

WHAT IS THIS FEELING?

ARE...

...YOU A TOTAL IDIOT?!

THERE'S NO WAY YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING.

STOP FUCKING AROUND!

YOU'RE BAD AT EXPRESSING YOURSELF?

THE REASON WHY I INVITED YOU TO JOIN MY BAND...

...WAS BECAUSE YOUR SONG MOVED MY HEART, GOT IT?!

GRAB

pant

pant

HOW CAN YOU

...MAKING SUCH A HURT FACE?

...MA-FUYU,

...WHEN YOU'RE...

Haa...

...SAY THAT KIND OF THING...

pant

release

pant

SING FOR ME.

I ALSO...

...LIKE THAT SONG.

...

TOP

MAYBE I BECAME A MESS AFTER I MET YOU.

...

AAAAH, DAMN IT!

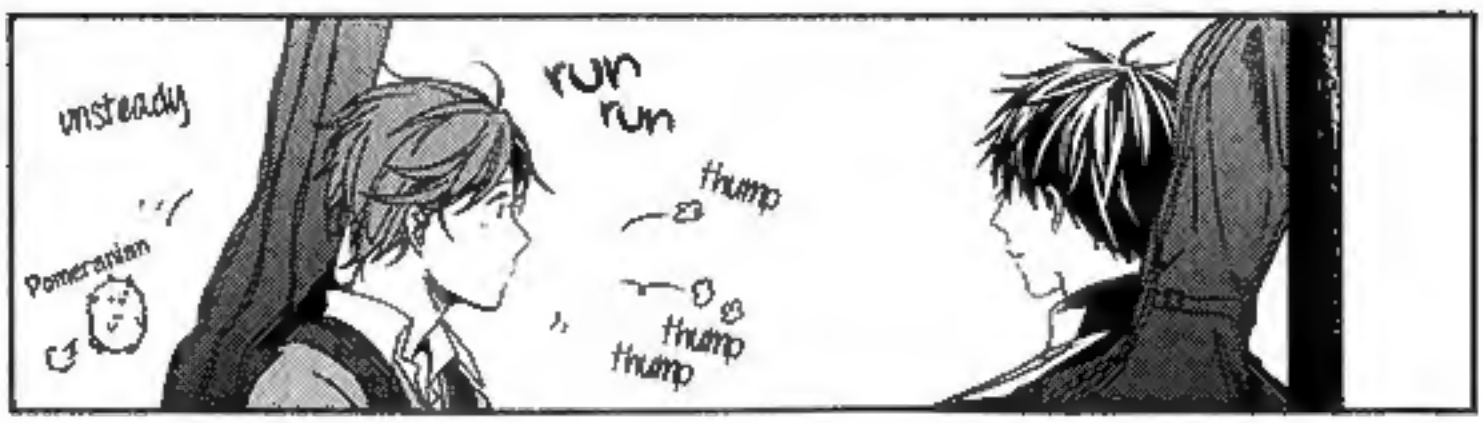
SO PAINFUL.

...

THIS IS...

shiver

...UNEX-PECTED.


unsteady
Pomeranian
run
run
thump
thump
thump